

[Letter from Woody Guthrie to Alan Lomax, June 17, 1942]

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Alan Lomax, Library of Congress, Music Division.

647 Hudson Street, New York June 17, 1942

Dear Alan:

You guys still making up Washington Bad Houses Talking In View of the New Sitation Crowded On Account of The War Effort Blueses? I hope so. I shore did like the one that you done up at Hootenany Hall when you was through here some time ago. I think the idea of trotting in the singing songs is a new, good twist on the Talking Blues, and ought to make it even more liked.

I'm trying to arrange an audition over at Columbia and Victor Recording Cos., in hopes of making an album or two for them mostly about the work to win the war.

I'm sending you a complete carbon copy of everything I sent the two recording companies. I'm doing this so you can have some idea of the material that I sent them in case they should get in touch with you and ask you anything about me. I ain't entertaining no high hopes at either place of getting to put out the albums, but I will feel be e t ter, anyway, to offer them the chance. I think me and Pretty Boy Floyd with nine six shooters on each hip would be just about equally well received over at Victor, especially; and for all I know, Clumbia too.

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Did you get the letter I wrote you not long ago about getting the old book of songs of mine exchanged for a new typed copy like last time? Is there still a WPA (Working Peoples Project) in Washington?

How's Hitler?

Same as ever, Some few changes. Woody Guthrie

I'm trying to arrange an audition at as many places as I can, and am wondering about Decca. What is your advice about them, and who is the man to hunt up? Would like to hear from you once in a while. Choose your subject.

Woody